



# State of New York

## Executive Chamber

### Proclamation

**Whereas**, New York State recognizes that our mental, emotional, and psychological well-being is a critical part of our overall health, and is committed to advancing a public health approach that consistently aims to save lives and reduce the traumatic impact of suicide on individuals, families, and communities; and

**Whereas**, these efforts stem from the work of the New York State Office of Mental Health (NYS OMH) and its Suicide Prevention Center, the State's lead entity in suicide prevention, which promotes, coordinates, and strategically advances suicide prevention across New York State with the goal of reducing suicide attempts and deaths; through the Suicide Prevention Center, NYS OMH has done tremendous work to promote and advance evidence-based and comprehensive suicide prevention in statewide healthcare settings, schools, and communities; and

**Whereas**, it is important that each of us recognize that we can help prevent suicide by offering support to those who might be struggling, understanding the need to eliminate the stigma of mental health, while raising awareness to foster a culture of empathy and understanding; and

**Whereas**, although New York State has one of the lowest suicide rates in the United States, it is important to remember that the work to prevent suicide is an ongoing effort, and there are always new challenges and circumstances that can impact mental health; and

**Whereas**, in New York State, the 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline was launched in July 2022, and has played an important role in suicide prevention and mental health support in all 62 counties by offering a simple three-digit number people can call, text, or chat online for immediate assistance during times of crisis; in its first six months of operation, the 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline routed more than 185,000 calls directly to the New York State 988 Crisis Contact Centers, and connected 31,320 former service members directly to the Veteran's Crisis Line; and

**Whereas**, this volume of outreach to the 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline shows the importance and need to help people in crisis find the right support to cope with emotional distress and let them know they are not alone by providing compassion and moral support to them; and

**Whereas**, in 2022, the New York State Office of Mental Health funded suicide-specific trainings for more than 23,000 New Yorkers, including community members, healthcare providers, school staff, and students; and

**Whereas**, New York State joins in observing Suicide Prevention Month throughout September and World Suicide Prevention Day on September 10th, with a commitment to the goal that all of us strive to become better educated about the signs of suicide, offer support to those who may be struggling, and destigmatize conversations related to mental health; we likewise recognize the importance of fostering a supportive community by increasing advocacy efforts and making mental health resources accessible to those seeking help;

**Now, Therefore**, I, Kathy Hochul, Governor of the State of New York, do hereby proclaim September 2023 as

## SUICIDE PREVENTION MONTH

in the Empire State.



**G i v e n** under my hand and the Privy Seal of the State  
at the Capitol in the City of Albany this fourth day of  
September in the year two thousand twenty-three.

*Kathy Hochul*  
Governor

*Karen Persichilli Keogh*  
Secretary to the Governor  
Karen Persichilli Keogh